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Parents' Crusade Tries to Intercept Child Molester

photo by Jerard Pearson



Panelists at the May 26 meeting of concerned parents, Joe LaPuzza, Lynette Brown, Sen. Marge Higgins, and Theresa Chadek.

FGM

WHAMO reporter Jerard Pearson attended a May 26 meeting of parents concerned about a likely child molester, and talked to several the parents. His story uncovered disturbing failures not only of the World-Herald, whose two stories (5/21 and 5/27) served to undermine the clout of these aroused citizens, but of all the media and Omaha's law enforcement process.

Residents of Field Club, Beals, Jefferson and Our Lady of Lourdes neighborhoods have been

aware since mid-May of a man who drives slowly through neighborhoods beckoning children to get in his car.

Three of the parents, Lynette Brown, Joe LaPuzza, and Velma Washka, have organized a citizens' response to the problem, focusing on informing each other and enlisting the support of the police and the media.

Police, as quoted in the World-Herald (5/21/88, p.17), have cautioned parents not to let concerns

Cont'd p. 6

WHAMO

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Address Correction Requested

Inside

WHAMO Editor Resigns...2

CENSORES Stories,
1987.....3

The Manufacture of
Consent.....4

Coverage of Cleanup....7

Feeders and Initiative
300.....8

Subscription Status

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Above the Law, Below the Law

Privileged Pervert Prowls

by Jerard Pearson

The author's son lives in one of the neighborhoods recently troubled by a child molester. Responses are welcome.

There's a shark winding through tranquil neighborhoods in south Omaha hunting for children while our institutional lifeguards in the media and the police are hindering anxious parents from effectively sounding an alarm. Neighborhoods where my young son lives are being terrorized by a human shark. This creature is casually trolling the streets hunting my young child. And I am told there is nothing that I can lawfully do about it.

With a menacing coolness spawned from the certainty that no one can lawfully interfere with him this creep slowly circles his victims and entices them to an uncertain fate.

This terror monger prowls our streets certain and sure that someday one of these innocent children will forget the warnings of parents and teachers, will

see only the smiling face, the beckoning finger, the nice car. This child could disappear, as others have, only to be discovered days later bloody and dead.

The public will be informed only then with insensitive newspaper headlines triumphantly announcing the terrible loss coupled with a smug story detailing all the gruesome, salacious facts.

Do men like this just pop up out of nowhere, with no background, no history? In this case parents pursued the police and media with their mostly accurate information about a real person possessing a long and sordid history in the very neighborhoods he is terrorizing. This is not some drifter, a stranger in our town, but a long time resident of the area--suspected, known, and recently feared by many.

The City Prosecutor and the police know this guy as well. In fact some in-

Cont'd p. 6

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From the Editor

A Benchmark Time for WHAMO

This is truly a benchmark time for WHAMO. Our longtime reader-members know that we are a citizens' organization that keeps an eye on our favorite local daily. Except for when I was in Honduras, or campaigning, we have published this newsletter monthly for three years. It is now time for WHAMO to fly independent of me, and I feel on the one hand, sadness over the necessity for distancing myself from the project, and on the other, pleasure and confidence that the project has come to maturity with good people at the helm.

Most of you know that I ran for a seat in Nebraska's Legislature in the May primary and was the top vote getter of seven candidates. Your "citizen journalist" is now a public person, which poses a conflict of interests: a watchdog press must be independent of the public figures it reports on. Although this ideal has failed to keep newsmaker Harold Andersen from continuing to function as publisher of the World-Herald, nevertheless, having believed in it strongly enough to take him to task, now I must step down.

This issue, the last one with my name on the masthead, is special. There is determination on the faces of the people in our cover story, a story about people taking charge to solve a problem when their institutions failed them. We are very proud of the people in that story and we mean for WHAMO to continue to cheer on those ordinary citizens who take charge at many levels.

We have also included an extra pullout section to tell the story of my campaign. Bruce Johansen edited this section, and we acknowledge the blatant lack of objectivity. The story qualifies for space in WHAMO, however, because it is without doubt one that won't see the light of print in the Herald, and is of interest to our readers. We also think that our readers might like to know what was going on that kept us from getting out an April or a May edition.

Who will now do the work of WHAMO? Ordinary citizens, as before. Having just completed a campaign that, in Dick Shugrue's words, relied "on people power rather than slick advertising," and still

"clobbered a Lindsay, a Fogarty, and a Cavanaugh (the Republican variety)," I believe that people power will do amazing things. Our network, which wasn't exactly shabby before the election, is now stronger than ever. Lots of people, both ordinary citizens and public citizens, have joined our ranks. So keep on telling your friends to join.

For the immediate future, we will ask people to serve as guest editors on a month by month basis. Next month Sen. Marge Higgins (whose soon to be unfilled position I am seeking), will be guest editor of regional and local news. Frank Duntze will be guest editor of national and world news. By all means, offer them your help or story ideas. Frank's number is 572-4211 (his machine sometimes answers with a tape of his wife Thea); Marge's number is 345-3868. By June 20 they hope to have our story ideas lined up; by June 24 they need hard copy.

I have always thought of WHAMO as a project, not a product. Hence, we ask our readers not for subscription fees, but for donations, as well as involvement. In

theory all you really have to do is fill out the coupon once a year, but of course most people do much more than that or we would have folded long ago. We have the support of good people. Now is the best of all possible times to get involved in the work we do. WHAMO has a bright future.

Frances Mendenhall

Air Force PR Outreach Enormous

The following is from "Propaganda Mill," by Edward S. Herman and Noam Chomsky, in the *Progressive*, June, 1988.

During a brief interlude of relative openness in 1979 and 1980, the U.S. Air Force revealed that its public-information outreach included 140 newspapers with a weekly total circulation of 690,000; *Airman* magazine with a monthly circulation of 125,000; thirty-four radio and seventeen television stations, primarily overseas; 45,000 headquarters and unit news releases; 615,000 hometown news releases; 6,600 news media interviews; 3,200 news conferences; 500 news media orientation flights; fifty meetings with editorial boards, and 11,000 speeches. Note that this is just the Air Force. In 1982, *Air Force Journal International* indicated that the Pentagon was publishing 1,203 periodicals.

To put this into perspective, consider the scope of public information activities of the American Friends Service Committee and the National Council of the Churches of Christ, two of the largest non-profit organizations that consistently challenge the views of the Pentagon. The Friends' main office had an information services budget of less than \$500,000 and a staff of eleven in 1984-1985. It issued about 200 press releases a year, held thirty press conferences, and produced one film and two or three slide shows. The Council of Churches office of information has an annual budget of about \$350,000, issues about 100 news releases, and holds four press conferences a year.

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☐ I can't manage a large donation, but I promise to brag about WHAMO to all my friends; please send me the newsletter.

☐ Count me in for some donated labor.

☐ I want to monitor news about _____

☐ I know how to use Appleworks (or some other data base) and can help with the mailing list.

☐ I am pretty good at layout and production.

☐ I like to draw cartoons.

*Survival Outlook:

WHAMO needs to average \$20/yr. from all its members who are employed

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Now in its 12th year, **Project Censored**, a national media research effort conducted annually at Sonoma State University, California, locates stories about significant issues which are not widely publicized by the national news media.

About Project Censored

Now in its 12th year, **project Censored**, a national media research effort conducted annually at Sonoma State University, California, under the direction of Carl Jensen, professor of communication studies at Sonoma State, locates stories about significant issues which are not widely publicized by the national media.

Anyone interested in nominating a 1988 story for next year's project can send a copy of the story to Carl Jensen, Project Censored, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA 94928

1

The Information Monopoly

Media expert Ben Bagdikian found that in 1987 just 29 corporations controlled half or more of the media business in America. Wall Street analysts of the media predict that only half a dozen giant firms will control most of our media by the 1990's. The impact of this information cartel on a free society is ignored by the mass media.

EXTRA!, 6/87, "The 26 corporations that own our media," and **Multinational Monitor**, 9/87, "The Media Brokers," both by Ben Bagdikian; **UTNE Reader**, 1/88, "Censorship in Publishing," by Lynette Lamb.

2

The U.S. and Its Contra/Drug Connection

An investigation by the Christic Institute, along with testimony before Congressional committees last year, revealed a startling picture of large-scale drug trafficking under the auspices of the U.S. government/contra supply network. In the midst of Nancy Reagan's well-publicized "Just Say No" to drugs campaign, the mainstream media failed to expose the contra gun-running operation that provided a safe conduit for drugs into the U.S.

THE CHRISTIC INSTITUTE SPECIAL REPORT, 11/87, "The Contra-Drug Connection" by Daniel P. Sheehan; **NEWSDAY**, 6/28/87, "Witness: Contras Got Drug Cash," by Knut Royce; **THE NATION**, 9/5/87, "How the Drug Czar Got Away," by Martin A. Lee; **IN THESE TIMES**, 4/15/87, "CIA, contras hooked on drug money," by Vince Bielski and Dennis Bernstein.

3

Unreported Worldwide Nuclear Accidents

In 1987, the West German weekly **Der Spiegel** published secret nuclear reactor accident reports compiled by the International Atomic Energy Agency. The reports, translated into English and published in a small circulation U.S. publication, were ignored by the major media. **Der Spiegel** said that "a meltdown was a real possibility" in several of the accidents and warned that human error is most prevalent in North America.

EARTH ISLAND JOURNAL, Summer, 1987, "Secret Documents Reveal Nuclear Accidents Worldwide," by Gar Smith with Hans Hollitscher; **EXTRA!**, 6/87, "Nuclear Broadcasting Company."

4

Reagan's Mania for Secrecy

Even though President Reagan proclaimed 1987 the "Year of the Reader," three major reports published in 1987 charged that because of the Reagan administration's penchant for secrecy, there was less to read last year. The reports detail how a massive network of executive orders, secret directives, and administrative edicts institutionalized secret throughout the government and put unprecedented controls on information available to the public..

THE NATION, 5/23/87, "History Deleted;" **GOVERNMENT SECRECY: DECISIONS WITHOUT DEMOCRACY**, 12/87, by People for the American Way; **PYL MEDIA ALBERT 1987**, 3/87, "The Reagan Administration & The News Media," by The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press; **THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**, Washington Office, "Less Access to Less Information-By and About the U.S. Government: IX," 12/87, by Anne A. Heanue.

5

George Bush's Role in the Iran Arms Deal

Evidence surfaced last year which indicated that Vice President Bush, far more than President Reagan, promoted the Iran arms

initiative, took part in secret negotiations, and conferred upon Oliver North the secret powers to carry

it out. The evidence suggests that Bush supported the Iran arms sales because of an economic motive--the desire to stabilize dropping oil prices.

PACIFIC NEWS SERVICE, 12/21/87, "Bush had oil policy interest in promoting Iran arms deals," by Peter Dale Scott.

6

Biowarfare research in University Laboratories

Overshadowed by Star Wars, the push toward biowarfare has been one of the Reagan administration's best kept secrets. Despite an international agreement which bans the development of germ-warfare agents, the Pentagon's research budget for infectious diseases and toxins has increased tenfold since fiscal '81 and most of the '86 budget of \$42 million went to 24 U.S. university campuses where the world's most deadly organisms are being cultured in campus labs.

ISTHMUS, 10/9/87, "Biowarfare and the UW," by Richard Jannaccio; **THE PROGRESSIVE**, 11/16/87, "Poisons from the Pentagon," by Seth Shulman; **WALL STREET JOURNAL**, 9/17/86, "Military Science," by Bill Richards and Tim Carrington.

7

Biased Press Coverage of Arias Peace Plan

Two studies monitoring U.S. press coverage of the Arias peace plan found significant bias in the coverage. The New York-based Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting group concluded that the study showed how



by Noam Chomsky

The Manufacture of Consent &

Part 2: Vietnam, Another Nicaragua

The following article is excerpted from "The Manufacture of Consent" (copyright 1984), as reprinted in The Chomsky Reader, Pantheon Books, NY, NY, 1987. Reprinted by permission.

preoccupation of the public relations industry, whose leading figure, Edward Bernays, described "the engineering of consent" as the very essence of democracy. In fact, as Gabriel Kolko notes, "from the turn of the century until this day, [the public mind] was the object of a cultural and ideological industry that was as unrelenting as it was

is the task of the intellectual to ensure that this voice endorses what far-sighted leaders know to be the right course. Propaganda is to democracy what violence is to totalitarianism. The techniques have been honed to a high art, far beyond anything that Orwell dreamt of. The device of feigned dissent, incorporating the doctrines of the state

doctrinal system been achieved? In the case of the American attack against South Vietnam, sufficient facts were always available. They were observed, but not seen.

There did, of course, develop a kind of opposition to the Vietnam War in the mainstream, but it was overwhelmingly "pragmatic," as the critics characterized with considerable self-adulation, distinguishing themselves from the "emotional" or "irresponsible" opponents who objected to the war on principled grounds. The "pragmatic" opponents argued that the war could not be on at an acceptable cost, or that

In the previous edition of WHAMO, Chomsky outlined some principles for systems of thought control in democracies.

"The great contribution of the critics," he said, "is to prevent the realization that what is happening today is not some departure from our historical ideals and practice...it is the systematic expression of the way our institutions function...to serve power and privilege."

"It is necessary to establish a framework for thinkable thought."

Over sixty years ago, Walter Lippmann discussed the concept of "the manufacture of consent," an art that is "capable of great refinements" and that may lead to a "revolution" in "the practice of democracy." The idea was taken up with much enthusiasm in business circles--it is a main

In both cases, civilians are being held hostage to terrorists supported by the military, and in both cases we support the terrorists.

diverse" ranging from the school to the press to mass culture in its multitudinous dimensions."

The reason, as an AT&T vice president put it in 1909, is that "the public mind...is in my judgment the only serious danger of confronting the company." The idea was also taken up with vigor in the social sciences. The leading political scientist Harold Lasswell wrote in 1933 that we must avoid "democratic dogmatism," such as the belief that people are "the best judges of their own interests." Democracy permits the voice of the people to be heard, and it

religion and eliminating rational critical discussion is one of the more subtle means, though more crude techniques are also widely used and are highly effective in protecting us from seeing what we observe, from knowledge and understanding of the world in which we live.

One of the central tasks of a successful educational system is to endow its victims with the capacity to observe, but not to see, a capacity that is the hallmark of the "responsible intellectual." How has this remarkable subservience to the

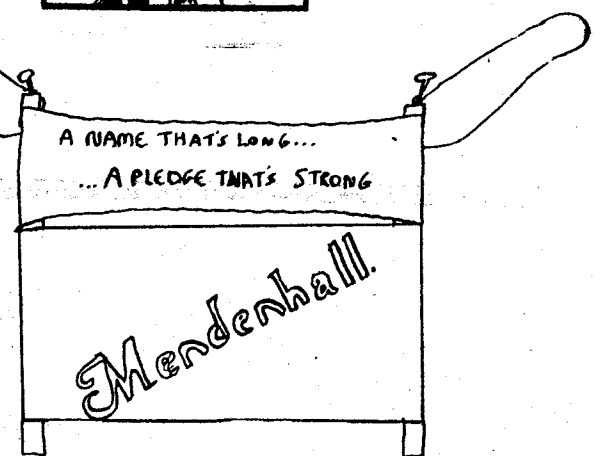
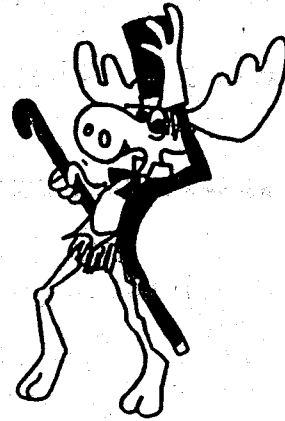
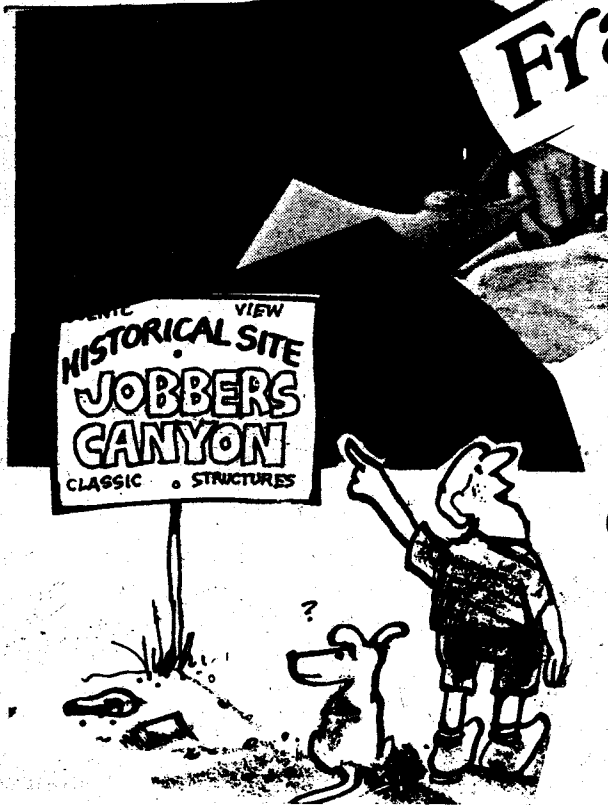
there was unclarity about goals, or duplicity, or errors in execution.

A closer look at the debate that did develop over the Vietnam War provides some lessons about the mechanisms of indoctrination. The debate pitted the hawks against the doves. The hawks were those, like journalist Joseph Alsop, who felt that with a sufficient exercise of violence we could succeed in our aims. The doves felt that this was unlikely, although, as Arthur Schlesinger explained, "We all pray that Mr. Alsop will be right, and 'we may all be saluting the wisdom and



SOME MUG

Frances Mendenhall
-Serving People
for a Better World



Getting Frances Elected Or, How to Send Another Squirrel to Lincoln

by Alison Nistad

Some of us got into this project with windmill-tilting determination, others fondness for Frances; a few recognized early on that our champion was not only an exceptional human being, but also *electable*.

As the campaign progressed, and more people got involved, we knew something special was happening. For instance, it's a rare occurrence in campaign finance to receive as one's first donation, \$500, almost unsolicited, from a school teacher.

The whole collection of people in this ad hoc group really put their hearts into it. Sr. Agnessa, for instance, must have made a thousand phone calls. Some of it was fun, but the reality was lots of work.

Fifty-five people phone banked, calling voters three

evenings a week. Kudos to the six-time repeaters.

Mailings went out once a week. Some happened on Thursdays at Mel and Mary Ann Beckman's; other rather large volumes of voter outreach were tirelessly addressed and sorted by Tom Rudloff and others at the Antiquarium bookstore.

Frances started walking and talking to voters early. She covered more than half of the precincts herself. Some election supporters helped by doing things for Frances' daughter Ellie so she could keep walking.

Five other people went door to door, including Sen. Vard Johnson, who walked two precincts in the last week.

Frances' yard signs (placed on cars as well as lawns) proved to be the most memorable part of the campaign. They were purple, a

color which we hoped would be unforgettable if not pleasing to the soul. By the last week before the election, some very creative people really put those signs on the map!

By the last week, our signs were outnumbered badly by those of two of our opponents. We also needed to compensate for the name recognition factor of three of our opponents. An ad hoc group, who, after a short time, realized that they were all left handed, (hence the name they gave themselves, "Committee of Southpaws") came up with a winning plan.

They capitalized on the fact that Frances' name was the longest on the ballot. A hokey slogan was crafted: "A Name That's Long, A Pledge That's Strong." Within days, pop-up banners with this slogan appeared on

most of Frances' signs.

Next, an eye-catching finale. Long purple balloons. Fifty-four inches, as a matter of fact. Not something you see every day. We had thousands of them (thanks to Veerless Leader).

So, just as the folks in District 9 grew accustomed to seeing our banners, boom, another surprise, balloons off the sides of the signs. After that, balloons became a symbol of support for Frances and in a few days they were showing up all over the district.

And all the activities of that intense final week were turned into fun as we all assumed roles from the "Rocky and His Friends."

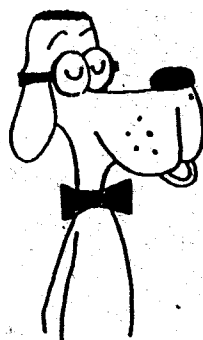
The voters got the message. Frances received 29% more votes than the runner up. Now it's on to victory in November.

MEMBER OF LEGISLATURE
DISTRICT #9 - Vote for ONE

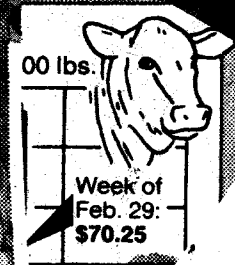
- ☐ John C. Lindsay
- ☐ John Hilgert
- ☒ Frances Mendenhall
- ☐ Bill Cavanaugh
- ☐ Robert D. Anderson
- ☐ James D. Fogarty
- ☐ Lydia Halva Haug
- ☐



The media
churn out
the official
line



9th District Legislature
Frances Mendenhall



Media, Ethics and Politics:

Is there
a conflict
of interests
between journalism
and politics?

by Bruce Johansen

The author, an associate professor of journalism at UNO and author of several books, was asked by WHAMO editor Frances Mendenhall to edit this section on her campaign. Following are his unobjective responses.

I picked up the morning edition of the World-Herald for Wednesday, May 11, after spending the finish of the primary campaign blissfully

ignorant of Omaha and Nebraska politics.

I'd spent nearly two weeks in Philadelphia and Seattle, alternately pitching my books and playing outside agitator and Sandinosymp, among folks who will cheerfully plead ignorance of the difference between a cornhusker and a corn borer.

I scanned the front page: Hal Daub lost. Great, thanks to Western Nebraskans, many of whom also helped Jesse Jackson to a quarter of the Democratic votes. And then I saw Frances Mendenhall's name on the front page, atop the list of seven primary contestants for state senator in the 9th District.

That was a surprise. I'd taken no part in the campaign, and really lost contact with what was happening in District 9. I don't even live in it, when I'm in town.

I opened the paper, to a small headline. The World-Herald quoting the founding mother of WHAMO, the primary winner. Fantasy dreams of power-lust filled my mind:

Five thousand Mendenhall supporters, surrounding the World-Herald building (mercilessly trapped in District 9), linking arms, demanding 51 percent of the stock, then settling for a citizens' board or perhaps an ombudsman.

Senator Mendenhall convincing a majority of the Legislature to offer the World-Herald tax breaks to move to Iowa, perhaps arranging a trade for the Des Moines Register.

Editor Woody Howe locked in a very small, very stuffy room, listening to certain lyrics in an old Bob Dylan tune a million and one times: "There's some-

thing happening here, but you don't know what it is..."

Mike Harper composing a letter to his state senator regarding Jobbers' Canyon, or requesting a dental appointment.

Omaha can be an interesting place. The campaign is hardly over, of course, and history still records Dr. Mendenhall as founding mother of WHAMO. So how do we justify covering her campaign?

The Professional Journalists' Code of Ethics forbids "journalists" from partaking of "political activity." "Journalists" usually mean people who cover the news, usually in the employ of publishers who are not bound by the same rules. I've heard no one down at World-Herald Square dispute Harold W. Andersen's right to exercise his influence through just about

More Commentary

Point those

'Tolerance, Zero Sense'

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Washington



the World-Herald

WARREN FRANKKE

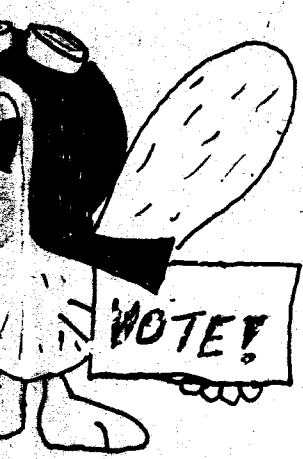
WHAMO

World-Herald Attitude Monitoring Operation

Edited by Fran 551

Step Into New Worlds...

in support of Frances
Fly a balloon

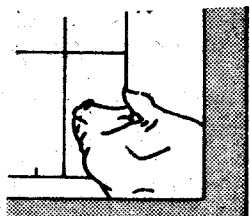


"Dr. Franny won," he noted, risking the ire of legislative candidate Francis Mendenhall, the dentist-editor of WHAMO, the World-Herald monitoring newsletter. She objects to his "Franny."

I asked about Ray Simon and others as Dundee continued anchoring our early morning report. (If only he'd go on location, ala WWT, from the zoo and the Herald newsroom.) Not

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When an Editor Wins a Primary

every board worth mentioning in and around Omaha.

I have met journalists around the United States who worry their bosses may frown if they so much as sign a petition, or even vote. Some willingly give up their First Amendment rights to avoid the "appearance" of "conflict of interest," also forbidden by the Code.

The Code also commands "journalists" to be "objective," one of the many terms in the document left conveniently undefined. If you want to stump a journalist, just ask him or her to define just what "objectivity" is. Does it mean hearing all points of view? That's really "fairness," which can be concretely defined in everyday practice.

"Objectivity" is one of those magic journalistic

semantic pretzels that allows an employer to exercise a modicum of control over the grunts in the trenches, by keeping them uncertain of employer expectations. It is a convenient journalistic fig leaf which hides the fact that the assembly of a daily newspaper is a collection of judgments by many people, as well as record of events as the newspaper's editors and owners define them. Who defines what is news? Who defines what news is printed and what is not?

These can be uncomfortable questions for newspaper owners, since they question the assumptions by which they operate. It is complicated and worrisome to have a curious readership that not only orders from the menu as provided, but also asks what the cooks are up to in the kitchen.

So, professor, what do you do when your editor has just won the 9th District

primary? To try to pretend that WHAMO doesn't support her campaign would be a laugh and a half. At least for this story in this issue, WHAMO pleads guilty to being a journal of unabashed advocacy.

WHAMO and the Mendenhall campaign have one thing in common: they arise from a perception, which seems to be spreading, that a substantial portion of Omahans are dissatisfied with the journalistic and political status quo in this town. Our biases are obvious.

There was a time in American history when newspapers made their biases obvious, until mass production and mass advertising made our big-city newspapers a cafeteria of the trivial in the late 19th century. Benjamin Franklin felt very comfortable as both editor and advocate of American revolution.

Small cities had many newspapers in those days, many voices. Today, most of us have one choice--which is to say, no choice, when shopping the marketplace of ideas in our home towns. We do not elect the editors who define "objectivity" and "fairness" and "newsworthiness" for us.

I do believe that Mendenhall opponents ought to have access to our pages to state their own sides of issues. Honest debate is important, and it takes two hands to clap. We accept the necessity of debate and dissent, and the right and obligation of all citizens to express their views, and to organize political remedies for their grievances. Thus, to publish a little newspaper and to run for office don't seem contradictory to us. We accept Frances' resignation sorrowfully, but with understanding.

The Campaign: What Other Papers Said

World-Herald 5/11/88

Nebraska Primary



Candidates in Districts 3, 5, 11, 13, 31 and 45 were unchallenged and advance to the November general election ... Winners Wayne Miller, District 3, and David Michael Dulaney, District 31, did not submit photos for publication.

Political Newcomer Mendenhall Tops District 9

Dr. Frances Mendenhall cleared her first hurdle Tuesday night in her first political race — the contest for the 9th Legislative District seat being vacated by Sen. Marge Higgins.

"I'm just delighted," said Dr. Mendenhall, a 39-year-old dentist who finished first in the field of seven candidates.

She and attorney John Lindsay, 28, who finished second, will go on to the November general election.

Dr. Mendenhall said she was most grateful to the campaign workers who believed in her and worked hard to help her win.

"Now I'm looking forward to pulling together and doing it again in the fall," she said.

Lindsay edged out Bill Cavanaugh, 61, a Metropolitan Utilities District director and a retired Internal Revenue Service official, for second place.

Lindsay, too, dedicated his performance at the polls to volunteers who helped out in his campaign.

"We had hoped to do a bit better, but there were a lot of good candidates in the race, and they probably cut into my votes," he said. "The top five candidates ran good campaigns, and I felt from the onset that we had

a good chance of making the cut in that top five.

"All of the candidates for the seat ran a fun and clean campaign. There was no mudslinging. I thoroughly enjoyed it all and am looking forward to the same kind of campaign in the fall."

The other candidates eliminated Tuesday, in the order they finished behind Dr. Mendenhall, Lindsay and Cavanaugh: James Fogarty, 42; John Hilgert, 24; Lydia Haug, 65; and Robert Anderson, 45.

The Daily Record

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

OPINIONS AND COMMENTS

In the 1988 primary, there were winners and there were heroes. Some were both. Others had to be satisfied just to be heroes.

— Dave Wilken — that wild, weird, funny, iconoclastic candidate for the House — deserves a hero's medal. He was willing to say the taboo word, the "T" word, when virtually everyone cowered, trembled at it.

The Republican Senate candidates pointed fingers, raised decibel levels over whether the other had said the "T" word.

And all the while, Wilken went his merry way, knowing he was buried somewhere down in the nether regions of the World Herald poll, but determined never to shout,

"Stop! Cut! I was just kidding. I'm just like all the others!"

— Ally Milder, the come-from-behind "carpetbagger" who had made her mark on the Senate Judiciary Committee and decided to come back home last fall, knowing she would have to face both the anointed (Jerry Schenken) and the entrenched (Chris Abboud).

Milder called for the field to run their campaigns with what she characterized as fiscal responsibility. And she called on Schenken to disclose his tax returns.

The tax return issue was completely misunderstood by the Herald, which "tak-taked" Milder for raising it. What it really represents is a question about government.

If Schenken earns thousands from the trough (Medicare, etc.) and pretends to oppose "government spending," the voters ought to know about it.

My third hero of the campaign is Frances Mendenhall. I've yet to meet this courageous, tough woman, but I can't help admire her: she doesn't just talk a good game, she acts on her beliefs. The care of the elderly and the disadvantaged is a way of life to her.

She deserves the admiration of this town, anyhow, for "WHAMO", the dissident newspaper she prints pointing out the errors and omissions of the Herald.

But she deserves a lot more than that for taking a just and reasonable stand on issues ranging from care for the elderly poor to tax equity.

Her campaign defied every rubric espoused by the pros: a corny slogan, an awful color, a reliance on people power rather than slick advertising, an insistence on taking tough stands. And yet she clobbered a Lindsay, a Fogarty and a Cavanaugh (the Republican variety).

These heroes of the 80s demonstrate that the American political process is alive and well and attracting some courageous, interesting candidates.



**RICHARD
SHUGRUE**

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Enterprises

5/19/88

Every day we see the war
they don't want you to see.



ALEXEI ANTONIO ZUNIGA, 2 MONTHS OLD, EL JUSTO, NICARAGUA

Photo by The Witness for Peace

the Molding of Public Opinion

statesmanship of the American government' if the U.S. succeeds (contrary to his expectations) in a war policy that was turning Vietnam into "a land of ruin and wreck." It was his book that established Schlesinger as a leading war opponent, in the words of Leslie Gelb.

It is, of course, immediately evident that there is a possible position omitted from the fierce debate between the hawks and the doves, which allegedly tore the country apart during these trying years: namely, the position of the peace movement, a position in fact shared by the large majority of citizens as recently as 1982: the war was not merely a "mistake," as the official doves allege, but was "fundamentally wrong and immoral." To put it plainly: war crimes, including the crime of launching aggressive war, are wrong, even if they succeed in their "noble" aims. This position does not enter the debate, even to be refuted; it is unthinkable, within the ideological mainstream.

The more subtle methods of indoctrination are considerably more significant than outright lying or suppression or unwanted fact, though the latter are also common enough. Examples are legion.

Consider, for example,

the current debate as to whether there is a "symmetry" between El Salvador and Nicaragua in that in each case rebels supported from abroad are attempting to overthrow the government.

The administration claims that in one case the rebels are "freedom fighters" and the government is an illegitimate tyranny,

Propaganda serves the same purpose in a democracy as terrorism serves in totalitarianism.

while in the other case the rebels are terrorists and the government is still a somewhat flawed democracy. The critics question whether Nicaragua is really supporting the guerrillas in El Salvador or whether Nicaragua has already succumbed to totalitarianism.

Lost in the debate is a more striking symmetry. In each country, there is a terrorist military force that is massacring civilians, and in each country we support that force: the government of El Salvador, and the contras. That this has been true in El Salvador, particularly

since the Carter administration undertook to destroy the popular organizations that had developed during the 1970s, is not in doubt. That the same is true in Nicaragua is also evident, though here we must turn to the foreign press, where we can read of "the contras' litany of destruction" as they murder, rape, mutilate, torture and brutalize the

civilian population that falls within their clutches, primary targets being health and education workers and peasants in cooperatives.

The top commander of the "Democratic Force," Adolfo Calero, is quoted in the New York Times as saying that "there is no line at all, not even a fine line, between a civilian farm owned by the Government and a Sandinista military outpost," and an occasional report indicates the consequences of these assumptions, but press coverage here is muted and sporadic, devoted to more significant matters, such as opposition to the draft (in Nicaragua).

This is the real "symmetry" between Nicaragua and El Salvador. Its significance is lost as we debate the accuracy of the government case, meanwhile continuing to labor under the mysterious collective amnesia that prevents us from seeing that there is little here that is new, and from understanding why this should be so.

It should be stressed again that what the Communists call agitprop is far more important in the democracies than in states that rule by violence; it is therefore more refined, and possibly more effective. There are no Danchevs here (referring to the courageous Soviet journalist Vladimir Danchev), except at the remote margins of political debate.

For those who stubbornly seek freedom, there can be no more urgent task than to come to understand the mechanisms and practices of indoctrination. These are easy to perceive in the totalitarian societies, much less so in the system of "brainwashing under freedom" to which we are subjected and which all too often we serve as willing or unwitting instruments.

Pervert

from p. 1

formation suggests they have three files each over an inch thick. The sentiments expressed by individual officers convey genuine concern and sympathy and we glimpse the human behind the shield. Certain officers were very cooperative. In a gesture of sympathy and cooperation someone in the department gave the parents one hundred copies of a departmental fact sheet. As events later showed this was a serious mistake and worked to the pervert's benefit. It resembled "wanted posters" in the post office complete with picture and description of the man stalking our defenseless children.

Crusade, from p. 1

about one individual get out of control. "We don't want paranoia to spread," Sgt. Glenn Moore was quoted as saying. "We have gotten, and unfortunately always will get, reports about people who try to hurt children."

At a meeting held May 26 at Sokol Hall Auditorium, three parents, three state senators, and a city councilman formed a panel for a meeting where passions flared. Angry parents demanded protection from Deputy Police Chief James Skinner, the spokesperson for the Police Department, and from a spokesperson for the City Prosecutor.

One panelist who got a standing ovation, Theresa Chadek, urged the parents to continue their vigilance. Mrs. Chadek's 11-year-old son Ricky disappeared two years ago and was found dead after eight days.

The parents, who had begun their crusade as an effort to curtail the actions of a single individual, were for the most part being told that there was no law to stop a such a person *until* he got a child in his car. Their energies were being deflected; now the course of action they were being directed to was to try to enact tougher laws.

Then like a rescue beacon inexplicably extinguished word from on high terminated police co-operation and the bureaucratic shuffle step began. The tale now starts sounding like a Sixty Minutes segment. The father of one of my son's friends chases down and veers his car directly into the path of the pervert's car and backs up his warning to leave the children alone with a semi-automatic pistol aimed at the shark. After beating a hasty retreat the pervert shaves his beard, cuts his hair and apparently gets a person who resembles his previous image to drive around the neighborhoods in the pervert-mobile in order to discredit stories of the vigilant parents.

Like the horrific odors from meat packing and sewage plants, rumors of twenty five years standing circulate perpetually in south Omaha about dope dealing, porno film making, rape, child abuse, and other assorted sordid perversions.

Because of an alleged "shift change" a crucial report to the police is "lost." Stories begin to diverge. The police say they only gave out two copies of the pervert fact sheet, implying that the frightened parents began copying, thus accounting for the 98 other "wanted posters."

All of a sudden parents concerned only for the safety of their children and the wish not to just push this undesirable in the direction of other people's children are defamed by the very institution designed to protect them.

This jerk has a high powered attorney and a confidential police department document circulating among the public serves the advantage of the shark. Perhaps it was threats of legal action which made police back off. Or perhaps there is a deeper level of cooperation between this low life and the police department. We do not know or understand why this man continues to get away with a lifetime of neighbor to

neighbor reported rape and molestation. We do know that the police are not and have not been trusted by these communities and cops are totally powerless to stop this monster. Police protestations of "no law to stop him" are meant to distract us from the inescapable fact of continual long term departmental impotence.

What we are being told in essence is that the loitering laws and other nuisance laws written to take care of guys like our

What we are being told in essence is that the loitering laws and other nuisance laws written to take care of guys like our neighborhood pervert can't cut the mustard when it comes to dealing with perverts of intelligence, influence and income.

neighborhood pervert can't cut the mustard when it comes to dealing with perverts of intelligence, influence, and income. This fact indicates that new nuisance laws will face similar enforcement problems. Selective enforcement is regarded as a fact of life. It's like having a clause in all laws which says, "Enforcement optional."

The bottom line on the police enforcement issue is this; the police can harass at will prostitutes and winos (people without means) but will turn on law abiding citizens trying to protect their children when the department might suffer loss of face.

The local news media reacted predictably with predictable stories. They all missed the real story of a real predator stalking children, my own child included. There are reasons for the abysmal failure of Channels 3,6,7 and the World-Herald. According to Noam Chomsky, Institute Professor in the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (see page 4) and Edward S. Herman professor of finance at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, (adapted from their book *Manufacturing*

Consent: The Political Economy of the Mass Media to be published this fall by Pantheon Books) "It is a primary function of the mass media in the United States to mobilize public support for the special interests that dominate the Government and the private sector...Most of the bias in the media arises from the selection of right thinking people, the internalization of preconceptions until they are taken as self-evident truths, and

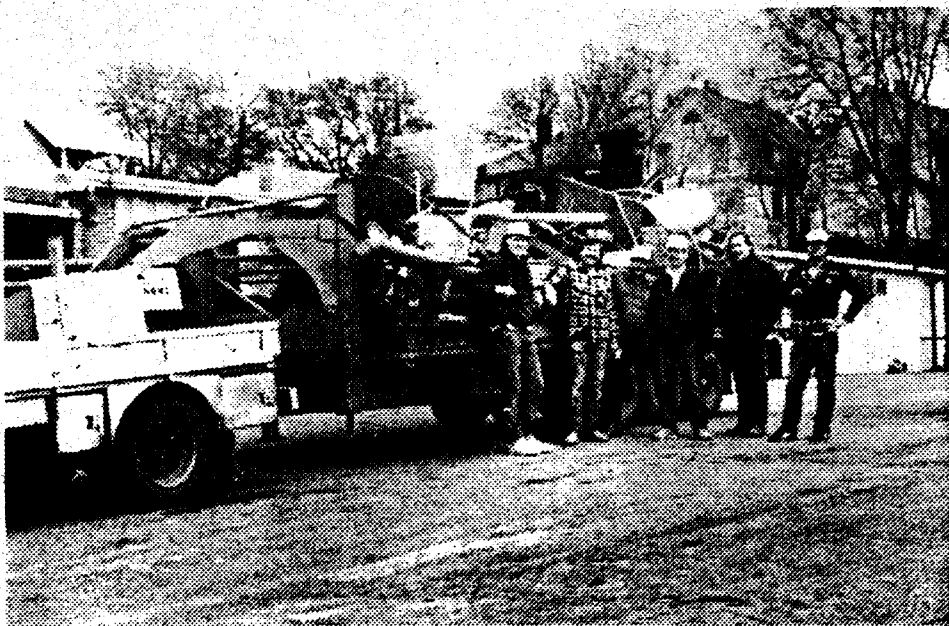
the practical adaptation of employees to the constraints of ownership, organization, market, and political power."

The media would do well to analyze the comments of these gentlemen seriously and avoid facile criticisms. The underclass in this country is continually underreported and badly reported. Media treatment of this molestation issue and the child pornography case of John McGlynn support and substantiate the words of Drs. Chomsky and Herman.

In fact there is another side to this story; neighborhood pervert as good father and community benefactor. Believe it or not.

Those who are active in this whistle blowing effort should be forewarned. You now fit a police profile and you as well as this reporter will be investigated. Perhaps your neighbors, your friends, your clergy, your local school administrators will be visited by the police. They will be asked what is known about your sexual history. They will be especially interested if it is thought that you might be a child molester. Don't be surprised. Welcome to the World of Psychological Profiles and Criminal Theory. It's Standard Operating Procedure here in River City.

From p. 3



Standing next to the scrap metal gleaned from the Leavenworth Neighborhood Association Cleanup are, from left to right: Alfonsas Maskivicius, Jim Thompson, Jim Abraham, Keith Rohrke, John Wulf, and Steve Cross.

Neighborhood Clean-up Deserved Better Stories

The author is the treasurer of the Leavenworth Neighborhood Association

by Steve Cross

Cleanup '88, sponsored by Keep Omaha Beautiful, the City of Omaha, and Glad Bags was a smashing success this year.

More neighborhood groups participated, more people were involved, and more trash was collected than ever before.

Glad Trash Bags was a new and welcome sponsor of this year's Omaha Spring cleanup, with Omaha being one of fifty cities designated to participate in the trash bag program.

Glad trash bags were distributed to the various neighborhood groups which in turn used them in their walking patrols to clean streets and alleys.

Everyone was involved but the Omaha World-Herald. Now I don't mean that they did not cover the month long story in May.

To their credit, they ran a story at the kickoff of the month of May, gave announcement of the various dumpster locations, and reported the number and amount of trash collected, but that wasn't the story!

The World-Herald is primarily a newspaper for the city of Omaha. Omaha is a city of neighborhoods. It's not uncommon in Omaha to meet someone new and find that you both have a mutual friend.

The World-Herald did not cover this one event that most of the neighborhoods participated in.

Where were the human interest stories, photographs of hard working Omahans cleaning up the city, youths picking up trash, mothers and fathers with their families striving to better the very space they share with their neighbors?

Now some would say, well it's not really news. No, no one was killed or was mugged; there were no fires or explosions.

You had to look deeper than that. You had to care and really have your finger on the pulse of this city of neighborhoods, or it was just a brief report of tons on trash and numbers of dumpsters hauled away.

As a member of a successful cleanup in my neighborhood, I know that the month of May was Spring cleanup time as did most of the city of Omaha.

I just wish our old friend the World-Herald would have been there to share the memories and triumphs of it.

That the World-Herald must be aware enough to realize that to serve the citizens of this city it must report on what is important to those citizens.

The Spring '88 cleanup was a big success but the World-Herald really wasn't there to share in the good feeling of its participants.

7

"Reagan's obsession with Nicaragua has turned into a media obsession." The other study, by the Media Alliance, a San Francisco-based group of media professionals, concluded that most of the newspapers studied followed the Reagan administration's direction as to what deserved coverage in Central America.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY GUARDIAN, 1/6/88, "On Central America, U.S. Dailies Parrot Reagan Line," by Jeff Gillenkirk; EXTRA, 8/87, "Media Put Reagan Spin on Arias Plan," by Jeff Cohen and Martin A. Lee.

systematically tortured by Salvadoran police forces who are trained and occasionally supervised by American military advisers. The use of torture reportedly is part of the U.S. counter-insurgency program in El Salvador.

THE NATION, 2/21/87, "After the Press Bus Left," and THE NATION, 11/14/67, "The Press and the Plan," both by Alexander Cockburn; SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER, 11/14/86, "In Prison, Salvador rights panel works on," by Ron Ridenhour; MARTIN INTERFAITH TASK FORCE ON CENTRAL AMERICA, 7/2/87, by Liz Erringer.

8

Dumping Our Toxic Wastes on the Third World

Exporting hazardous and toxic wastes to Third World countries is a growth industry. The exported material includes heavy metal residues and chemical-contaminated wastes, pharmaceutical refuse, and municipal sewage sludge and incinerator ash. The risks for countries that accept our wastes range from contamination of groundwater and crops to birth defects and cancer. Since we import food from some of these same countries, our exported hazardous wastes could easily end up on our own dinner tables.

THE NATION, 10/3/87, "The Export of U.S. Toxic Wastes," by Andrew Porterfield and David Weir.

Project Galileo Shuttle to Carry Lethal Plutonium.

Despite dire scientific warnings of a possible danger, NASA is pursuing plans to launch the Project Galileo shuttle space probe with 49 pounds of plutonium on it. Theoretically, one pound of plutonium, evenly distributed, could give everyone on the planet a fatal case of lung cancer. Critics of the plan claim that putting Galileo's plutonium payload into space is both risky and unnecessary.

THE NATION, 1/23/88, "The Space Probe's Lethal Cargo," by Karl Grossman.

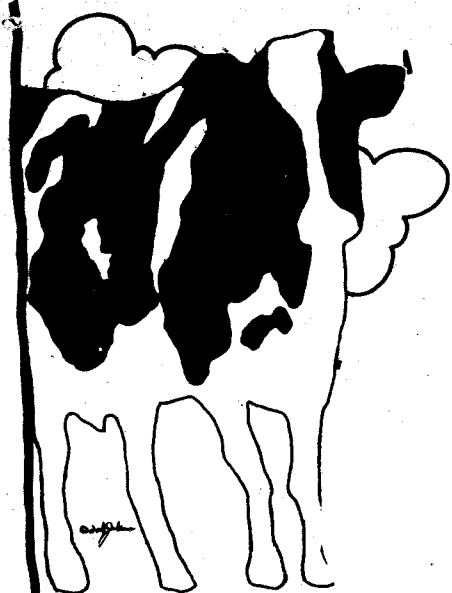
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9

The Censored Report of Torture in El Salvador

A 165-page report smuggled out of the Mariona men's prison in El Salvador by the Human Rights Commission of El Salvador, documents the "routine" use of at least 40 kinds of torture on political prisoners. Prisoners are





Not All Feeders Oppose Initiative 300

Another Cheap Shot

FGM

If you follow the applications of Nebraska's Family Farm Amendment, Initiative 300, you know that a recent ruling by the Attorney General has clarified that beef packing plants, such as IBP, can own cattle "destined for slaughter," that is, during the time between their purchase from feedlots and their slaughter. No one is trying to turn the packing industry into a family operation.

If you further follow I-300, you also know that feedlots--now predominantly family operations--believe that they too should be exempted from its rules, arguing that their cattle too are "destined for slaughter." Whether or not they will have their way remains undecided. But supporters of I-300, and at least one opponent, have doubts about recent arguments that keeping I-300 restrictions on the feedlots discourages beef packing plants from coming to Nebraska.

None of the above facts was mentioned in a quick and dirty little poke at I-300 appearing on the Midlands

Section Front of our favorite local daily. "Feeders Against Initiative 300," May 26, p. 17.

The story was from AP, and was, compared to the version that appeared in the Lincoln Star, highly condensed, leaving out comments that question the arguments attempted by the feedlot operators. The Star headline "Two Feedlot Operators Claim 300 Keeps Beef Packing Out of Nebraska," leaves you with considerably more skepticism than does the Herald headline, "Feeders Against Initiative 300."

State Sen. Owen Elmer of Indianola, a member of the Legislature's Agriculture Committee, is opposed to I-300. But he understands that packing plants can own the cattle they are about to slaughter, and believes that keeping feedlot operations within the realm of the Family Farm Amendment will not necessarily discourage packing plants from coming to Nebraska. His comments

were left out of the story as it appeared in the Herald.

Next Month

Is the King (of AkSarBen) on the outs with the Czar (of ConAgra)

Some who read the story on the Sunday 5/29, Business Page about ConAgra and others controlling the beef market wonder. The whole story in July.

U.S. Ecology: the Whole Story

IF YOU'RE READING THIS PAPER SECONDHAND...

CUT IT OUT.

The coupon on page two, that is.
WHAMO depends on member support.

Even more to the point were comments by Lorela Stevens of Gothenburg, also omitted from the Herald's version. Stevens expressed "concern that packers would dominate and control the market if they were allowed to feed cattle."

NFU President:

Feedlots Must Stay in Family Control

"Allowing packers to have their own feedlots in Nebraska makes about as much sense as accepting a deal from a coyote that he will build you a brand new chicken house, if you will let him guard the chickens," said Farmers Union President Larry Hall.

Hall's comments came in response to those of feedlot operator Larry McQuarters during a committee meeting of the Legislature's Agriculture Committee held in North Platte May 25.

McQuarters said the plants would rather bid on cattle at a feedlot with 1,000 head of cattle, that buy from a producer with two truckloads.

Said Hall: "According to Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service figures, there were 9,050 feedlots in Nebraska in 1986 with a capacity of under 1,000 head of cattle. If Initiative 300 were destroyed, meat packers would soon have huge feedlots of their own in Nebraska. They would then be free to stop buying from the small operators who only have a few truckloads to sell. In the long run the small operators who are currently the backbone of Nebraska's cattle feeding industry would be driven out of business, and the total number of cattle on feed wouldn't really increase. Instead, Nebraska would end up with fewer feedlots, having a positive economic impact upon fewer communities, with ownership of the industry concentrated in fewer hands."

Counter Press Club Ball

Planning Meeting
for annual WHAMO event
to be held in October

4738 Franklin
Sr. Tim O'Roark's
7:30

Call Jim Capdevielle, 558-4129 for
more information